

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1, 5-8, 13-16, and 21-23 have been cancelled, and claim 3 has been amended. Thus, claims 3, 4, 9-12, and 17-20 are now active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

At the bottom of page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner kindly indicated that claims 4, 9 and 17-20 are allowable, and that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, in order to expedite allowance of this application, claims 1, 5-8, 13-16 and 21-23 have been cancelled, and claim 3 has been amended into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim 1.


Accordingly, it is submitted that all of the currently pending claims 3, 4, 9-12 and 17-20 are clearly allowable in view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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